

filed claims should not be restricted to the elected invention, for the reasons which are set forth hereinbelow.

According to MPEP § 803, restriction by the Examiner of patentably distinct inventions is proper if the claimed inventions are independent and a *serious burden* would be placed on the Examiner if restriction was not required. Applicant respectfully submits that the presentation of all of the originally filed claims would not place such a serious burden on the Examiner as to require restriction. All of the originally filed claims are related, though patentably distinct products or processes having a common utility.

Although the claimed invention groups are generally patentably distinct from each other, Applicant respectfully submits that any search the Examiner would need to conduct in examining the instant application and the examination itself would not be unduly burdensome. Moreover, the examination of all of the originally filed claims in the instant application would not place such a serious burden on the Examiner as to require restriction.

Applicants understand the general policy considerations for the Patent Office's requirement for restriction in certain instances. In this instance, however, those considerations do not weigh in favor of restricting the inventions here. In determining the appropriateness of restriction, one must also consider the countervailing consideration that, in each instance, Applicant wishes the Patent Office to examine his or her application with a certain degree of "administrative efficiency" and wishes to have patent claims issue which reflect the breadth of his or her invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the originally filed claims are sufficiently narrow to allow the Examiner to determine patentability without being subjected to the serious burden referred to in MPEP § 803. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement in its entirety.

The Examiner is cordially requested to call the undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephonic discussion may materially advance the prosecution of the instant application in any way. No fee is due for the presentation of this response. If any additional fee is due or any overpayment has been made, please debit or credit Deposit Account 04-0838.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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Dated: February 11, 2008

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on Febrary 11, 2008.

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